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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY   REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. In general the Yugoslav Arms Factory at Vranje serves as an experimental center for the Ministry of National Defense. It has been experimenting in the production of Soviet prototype weapons. At the end of 1947 and the beginning of 1948 it was engaged, under the direction of Engineer Kolychev from Kuibyshev, on the trial production of Degtiarev-37 light automatic carbines and Colt 11.45 mm "TK" pistols. In February 1948 it started making short barrelled 7.62 mm "TK-40" automatic carbines.

2. The factory has a ballistics laboratory whose head is Professor Boris Bilic, a member of the Yugoslav Communist Party who lived for a considerable time in the Soviet Union where he worked in the State Ballistics Institute.

3. Employees number 3,000 of whom 53.3 percent are members of the Yugoslav Communist Party. Six Czech foremen are employed at the factory. The Political Commissar is Major Petar Mihelic who has taken a course of political instruction in the Soviet Union.

4. The factory suffers from a shortage of machine tools which is affecting its output.

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